(a) whether India and the United States of America have agreed to constitute a joint working group to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by both countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions and details of the agreement; and

(e) the date from which the said agreement will be effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India and the United States have established a Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism to institutionalise and intensify their co-operation to combat international terrorism.

(c) and (d) The two sides have agreed on a range of measures to enhance co-operation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and co-ordinate approaches and action. The U.S. has offered training facilities for anti-terrorist activities, the specifics to be determined in future visits. The two sides also decided to convene a meeting of each side's legal experts in April to discuss the Indian proposed UN Terrorism Convention. Further, the two sides have agreed to intensify their joint cooperation to ensure that the perpetrators of the hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814 are brought to justice, as part of their joint efforts to combat international terrorism.

(e) The dicision to constitute the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism was announced at the conclusion of the latest discussions of the ongoing Indo-US dialogue on security, non-proliferation, disarmament and related issues, held on January 18-19, 2000 in London. The first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism took place in Washington D.C. on February 7-8, 2000.

Categories of people to be given passports within seven days

1560. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the categories of the people to be given passports within seven days;

(b) the salient features of the new Tatkaal Scheme; and

(c) its impact on applicants of general category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Tatkaal Scheme has been implemented with effect from 1.1.2000 in recognition of the genuine need of some passport applicants for out-of-turn issue of passports. Under this Scheme, for an additional fee, passports will be issued on an out-of-turn basis to eligible applicants within seven working days who have a valid reason for urgent travel abroad and includes minors upto 15 years of age, cases of re-issue and duplicate passports where there is no change in address of applicant, all cases where a verification certificate from an authorised official is available and all employees of Central/State Government, Public Sector Undertakings, Armed Forces and their spouses where NOC from the Head of Department is available.

(c) There has been no noticeable impact on the applicants of the general category on account of issue of passports under the Tatkaal Scheme.

Model for Globalisation

1561. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently at New Delhi he has stated that India would chart out its own course in the globalisation process as no system in the world could work without answering the demands of the poor; and

(b) if so, the details of the model for globalisation to be adopted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) In his inauguration speech at the CII Partnership Summit in New Delhi in January 2000, the External Affairs Minister stated that in the management of globalisation, the issues relating to the poor cannot be ignored.

(b) The model of globalisation adopted by the Government of India has encompassed, *inter-alia,* the following gradual reduction of import tariffs and removal of quantitative restrictions; liberalisation in FDI by allowing foreign equity participation in almost all the sectors except a few; gradual liberalisation of the norms of FII investment with progressive enhancement of the cap; allowing Indian companies of float ADR/GDR; progressive liberalisation of ECB guidelines; allowing exchange rate to be market determined; making the rupee